

VOSGES DEFENCES PIERCED BY FRENCH

German Works in Fecht Valley Occupied After Lively Engagement.

COLMAR AGAIN ATTACKED

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
Paris, July 21.—French forces gained ground on the eastern heights of the Vosges, yesterday after a lively engagement. These troops captured part of the German defensive works, progressing particularly in the direction of the crest of La Ligne.

The Germans, on the other hand, managed to gain a footing in advanced French trenches on the eastern edge of the Argonne Forest. Otherwise there have been no changes in the front during the last twenty-four hours.

Colmar, in Alsace, was bombarded again yesterday afternoon by two French aeroplanes, bombs being dropped on the railway station. A squadron of thirty-one aeroplanes dropped bombs on the station at Conflans-en-Jarnisy, near the Lorraine border.

The night communiqué was as follows:

In Aisne the campaign continued. There were torpedo and hand grenade conflicts near Souchez, without infantry engagements.

On the eastern edge of the Argonne Forest the enemy managed to gain a footing in one of our trenches which forms a salient in front of our line.

Between the Meuse and the Moselle there was a violent bombardment of La Tete-a-Vache, in the Argonne Forest. In La Prete wood about twenty bombs were thrown on St. Die.

The afternoon communiqué was as follows:

In Aisne the night was marked by a campaign in the vicinity of Souchez and near Neuville. Souchez was bombarded during the night.

In the forest of Apremont the enemy attacked our positions at the Cote de la Heule and at La Vaux Ferry and were completely repulsed.

In the Vosges there were lively infantry actions yesterday afternoon and last night on the heights overlooking the eastern side of the valley of the Fecht. From the north we obtained possession of part of the German defensive works, progressing particularly within a short distance of the crest of La Ligne.

Thirty-eight aeroplanes yesterday bombarded the station of Conflans-en-Jarnisy, an important junction. Three shells of 155 millimetres each and four of 90 millimetres fell directly on the station. The engine shed was struck by a 155 millimetre shell. Three enemy aeroplanes were put to flight by our scouting aeroplanes accompanying the squadron. One enemy machine was compelled to land.

Two of our aeroplanes yesterday afternoon again bombarded Colmar Station (in Upper Alsace). Four shells of 155 millimetres and four of 90 millimetres fell on the tracks.

TRENCHES STORMED.

Belgian Reports Capture of 365 Men and 5 Officers in Argonne.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
BRUSSELS, July 21 (via London).—The German forces in the Argonne stormed several French trenches yesterday, capturing five officers, 365 soldiers and one machine gun, according to tonight's official statement.

The air raid which the squadron of French aeroplanes made on Colmar yesterday resulted in the sinking of a flotilla and injury to a woman. Several houses were damaged.

The statement was as follows:

In the Argonne region our troops, for the purpose of improving their position, stormed various French trenches and took five officers and 365 men and one machine gun.

In the Vosges, in the region of Munster, a stubborn engagement occurred. The French attacked several times between Lingolsheim and Muehlbach, being repulsed each time.

At various places, however, the enemy penetrated our trenches and had to be driven out by hand and by machine gun fire.

South of the Reichsackerkopf the enemy still retains a section of our trenches.

Our front on the adjoining positions at Dieudonne and as far as Hilsen Ridge was subjected day and night to a fierce fire of the enemy. We took four officers and 120 men prisoners, the majority of them mountain chasers.

A German aviator compelled a French aviator to descend near Boulogne. The machine, which was damaged, is in our possession.

Enemy aviators who bombarded Colmar dropped ten bombs, which fell on the houses and in the streets, killing one civilian and injuring one woman.

TURKS SAY ALLIES FELL BACK.

Official Report Claims Victory East of Kalpa el Nedsum.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
BRUSSELS, July 21 (via London).—The Turkish War Office issued the following statement at Constantinople to-day:

In Iraq our vanguard attacked the right wing of the enemy east of Kalpa el Nedsum and forced the enemy to retire after a four hours battle.

A Turkish flying column raided an enemy camp Sunday and secured rich booty.

There is nothing to report from the other fronts.

SANK 69 FLOUR SHIPS.

Russian Report Tells of Attack on Turkish Vessels.

LONDON, July 21.—Unofficial despatches from Sebastopol saying that a Russian squadron had sunk a flotilla of sixty-nine Turkish sailing vessels laden with flour in the Black Sea are confirmed to-day in an official statement issued at Petrograd. The statement was as follows:

"Our destroyer flotilla destroyed a fleet of sixty-nine Turkish sailing vessels laden with flour.

A battle is being fought in the direction of Mush (Asiatic Turkey, eighty-three miles southeast of Erzerum). We captured Nazyk in the course of the fighting."

Kaiser Didn't Fix on October.

BRUSSELS, (via London), July 21.—The Tagblatt says that it has learned on competent authority that the statement attributed to the Kaiser in foreign papers that the war would end in October is wholly without foundation.

SAYS VENIZELOS MAY FAVOR SIDE OF KAISER

German Writer Declares Greek Statesman Has Changed Point of View.

EXPORTATION CURTAILED

Special Correspondence to The Sun.
BRUSSELS, July 21 (via London).—Greece, Rumania and Bulgaria are the three countries being constantly courted by the diplomats of the European Powers now at war, one side endeavoring to coax one or all three into the world conflagration, while the other is doing its best to keep them in a state of neutrality at least. News of failure or success of these efforts has been scarce. The entire Balkan situation is veiled in mystery.

The first glance by way of Berlin into the status of affairs in one of these three Balkan nations, Greece, in its relation to the Allies and the central Powers, is given by two remarkable interviews obtained by Dr. Leo Ledtner, correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt. One of them, with the present Greek Premier, M. Gounaris, is published to-day; the other is an authorized account of an interview between the erstwhile Deputy from Sparta, M. Kolumvakis, and M. Venizelos, the ex-Premier, who is expected soon to resume the reins of his country's government.

Between the lines, as it were, of both interviews there runs a reflection of the tremendous efforts made by German diplomacy to keep Greece from entering the war, as it was about to do with Venizelos's power, which has been temporarily at least by King Constantine, whose wife is a sister of Kaiser Wilhelm's. There is an intimation throughout that Germany believes that in the event Venizelos should return to power his policy will not be the old one but will incline toward the central Powers.

Polity Changes Necessary.

In his conversation with his political friend M. Kolumvakis, M. Venizelos forecast a war with Bulgaria, saw Greece isolated, having incurred the disfavor of the Allies, and painted a gloomy picture of the future unless radical changes in governmental policy were made.

An interesting contrast to the former Premier's views is given by the present Premier in his interview. A translation of Dr. Ledtner's account follows:

"I visited the man toward whom at present all eyes are directed at his summer seat in Kithira, the island of the Aegean, a friend, the Mayor of Athens, Benaki. Hidden among the shady green trees like the plain little villa which is the erstwhile leader of Greece lives.

"I found Venizelos sitting all alone at the window of a little half dark room, looking out at the sea. He was alone, I have seen him in Berlin. Looking into those intelligent, kindly eyes, one hesitates to believe that the man who has been the silence of the summer quiet at once assumes a personality of imposing prominence, with that excited light in his eyes, the course of which the most secret documents of statesmanship have been scattered into the street, as it were.

Venizelos refused with all positive news to discuss politics at this time. 'You have observed,' said the erstwhile Premier, 'that I have Venizelos's policy. I have discussed political questions. The time to speak has not yet come.'

The Kolumvakis interview.

"I am not committing an indiscretion by now proceeding to divulge the most essential points in the conversation between Venizelos and Kolumvakis as related to me by the latter.

"Public opinion," said Mr. Kolumvakis to Venizelos, "is anxiously waiting for a statement from you about the situation."

"The time is not ripe yet for that," replied the ex-Premier. "I shall speak at a later date. I shall speak at a later date. I shall produce official documents as a basis for all my remarks."

"Then you are going to return to active politics?" asked the former Deputy.

"But the idea prevails that you are not inclined to assume the national government."

"Possibly not," was Venizelos's answer. "I regard the present situation with great pessimism and I deeply regret that no one has been able to do anything about it."

"What have we lost during the last three months?" Can one imagine a greater disaster than that which has befallen Greece?"

"Thanks to the policy the present government is pursuing, Greece has today not a friend in the world. We are isolated."

"Through the inconsistency between his words and his actions, the Gounaris Cabinet has satisfied and angered the Venizelos."

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FRENCH EXCHANGING LONG HOARD OF GOLD

War Fright Over, They Take Paper Money or Purchase Defence Bonds.

EXPORTATION CURTAILED

Special Correspondence to The Sun.
PARIS, July 21.—At the beginning of the war the Bank of France was besieged by crowds anxious to get all the gold they could lay hands on. It being the only form of money in which absolute confidence was retained. To-day, after eleven months of fighting, the crowds, though not in such numbers, are lining up to the bank's counters to give up their gold for paper. Many take the paper thus received to another counter and exchange it for national defence bonds, feeling that they have done two patriotic actions at the same time. They have France's pledge to pay them over 5½ per cent. in addition.

It has been found necessary to open eight pay windows at the bank's headquarters in order to deal expeditiously with the crowds. Every effort is made not to waste an exchanger's time. A letter is given to each on which the exchanger writes name and address and the sum of gold to be exchanged.

Then the exchange passes to a pay window, the gold is counted and bank bills are given in exchange. The bank is using at least 100 million francs in exchange of gold bills printed in August, 1914, and never before issued. A formal receipt is given.

First, that Venizelos absolutely no knowledge of such proposals upon the part of Germany, replied Venizelos.

"Second, that he pictures the present position of Greece in extremely bleak colors.

"Only the future will show," said Dr. Ledtner, "whether that is done so that in the event of Venizelos's return to power his efforts for the reestablishment of the old state of affairs may appear in the most brilliant possible light, or whether he wishes to leave the way open for a definite abandonment of his former intervention policy."

Recording his interview with the present Greek Premier, M. Gounaris, the Tagblatt's correspondent says:

"M. Gounaris received me in his study in the War Ministry, the direction of which he assumed along with the Premier, last evening."

"In fluent German, and without ever hesitating a moment, M. Gounaris answered the questions I put to him.

"You know," he said, "that the consequences of the new elections for the domestic policy of Greece" was my first question. He replied:

"You know that the present government did not have the support of the majority of the new Cabinet; the further development of things depends upon the emergency. Pierre Miller, the noted humorist, writes that he finds he possesses five lions and a half in gold."

"He has five lions and a half in gold," he said, "which he has put in the hands of the Ministry of Finance, which has given rise to many a remark on the wealth of the present day man of letters, with comments to the effect that his case is unique."

M. Miller, Minister of Finance, submitted the following report to President Poincaré on July 3:

"France, unlike most countries of Europe, has not hitherto prohibited the export of gold. This regime of free exportation of gold has its advantages."

"Facilitating the payment of public debts abroad, but it may be liable to abuse and dangerous practices. The gold that is being sought is not always for the purpose of paying public debts abroad, but for the purpose of paying private debts abroad."

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ITALIANS ADVANCING ON CARSO PLATEAU

Material Progress Made on the Natural Barrier to Roads to Trieste.

TROOPS BRIDGE ISONZO

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
ROME, July 21.—Material progress is being made by the Italian troops in their attacks on the Austrian intrenchments on the edge of the Carso plateau, the natural barrier between the invaders and the roads to Trieste. An official report from Gen. Cadorna, the Chief of Staff, made public to-day says several additional trenches were taken last night and that 500 Austrians, including five officers, had been made prisoners.

For three days a desperate battle has been going on between the Italian troops of Gradiska and Podgora, on the west bank of the Isonzo, the key to Gorizia, the great Austrian fortress, the taking of which is essential to the Italian advance. While the Italians have crossed the Isonzo both north and south of Gorizia they have been so far unable to make real headway against the very strong bridgehead which the Austrians constructed on the west bank of the Isonzo to guard Gorizia.

An engineer corps of the invading army has been able to rebuild the bridge over the Isonzo between Cervignano and Monfalcone, both of which towns are held by the Italians. The bridge was destroyed by the Austrians in their retreat at the outbreak of war and its reconstruction permits of the rushing of reinforcements to the Italians engaged against the defenses of Gorizia as well as of fighting on the edge of the Carso plateau.

The official report was as follows:

"Our vigorous offensive all along the Isonzo front continued yesterday, progress being made especially on the Carso plateau, where at the end of the day several additional trenches were taken and 500 prisoners, including five officers, captured.

Although fatigued by the sharp and stubborn struggle, prolonged until midnight, our troops succeeded in capturing the enemy's positions and are firmly in the conquered positions and resisted counter attacks made by the enemy during the night. The actions continue to develop."

The situation over the rest of the front is unchanged.

It is reported here that the guns of the cruiser Ansaldo, which was sunk in the Adriatic by an Austrian submarine in water about ninety feet deep, will soon be brought to the surface. Divers have been working for several weeks and report that they have located the guns, which are undamaged.

ITALIANS TAKE HEIGHT.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
VIENNA, July 21.—The Austrian official report dealing with the operations on the Italian front issued to-night says:

In the Gorizia region the Italian troops continued the general attack on the edge of the plateau of Dobrovo and the bridgehead at Gorizia. The battle raged all day in the evening the Austrians succeeded in taking Monte San Michele, east of Sauraustra. This morning Major-General Boek reconquered this height from the Italians which had hitherto been in reserve.

South of Sauraustra our troops maintain their position. A flank attack executed from a height to the east of Sauraustra was repulsed. The Italians suffered a slight loss of position.

Since our troops have also firmly held the southwest edge of the plateau, the enemy's offensive has been head on at Gorizia all night attacks. The Italian effort which was carried out with enormous sacrifices was unproductive of results.

On the rest of the coastal front there is comparative quiet.

On the Carso plateau further pushing of importance has occurred.

East of Schladerbach three enemy battalions attacked Monte Tundo, but were repulsed. The enemy suffered two-thirds of their effectiveness.

1,000,000 MEN ENGAGED.

Austrians, With 400,000, Calling for Reinforcements.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
LONDON, July 21.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail reports that the Italians have captured several elevated positions on the Carso plateau and are pressing on. The Archduke Eugene, he says, has demanded reinforcements. It is estimated that at least 400,000 Austrians are engaged in the battle on the I